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Polish migrant workers in the north: integration and xenophobia

Ian Fitzgerald

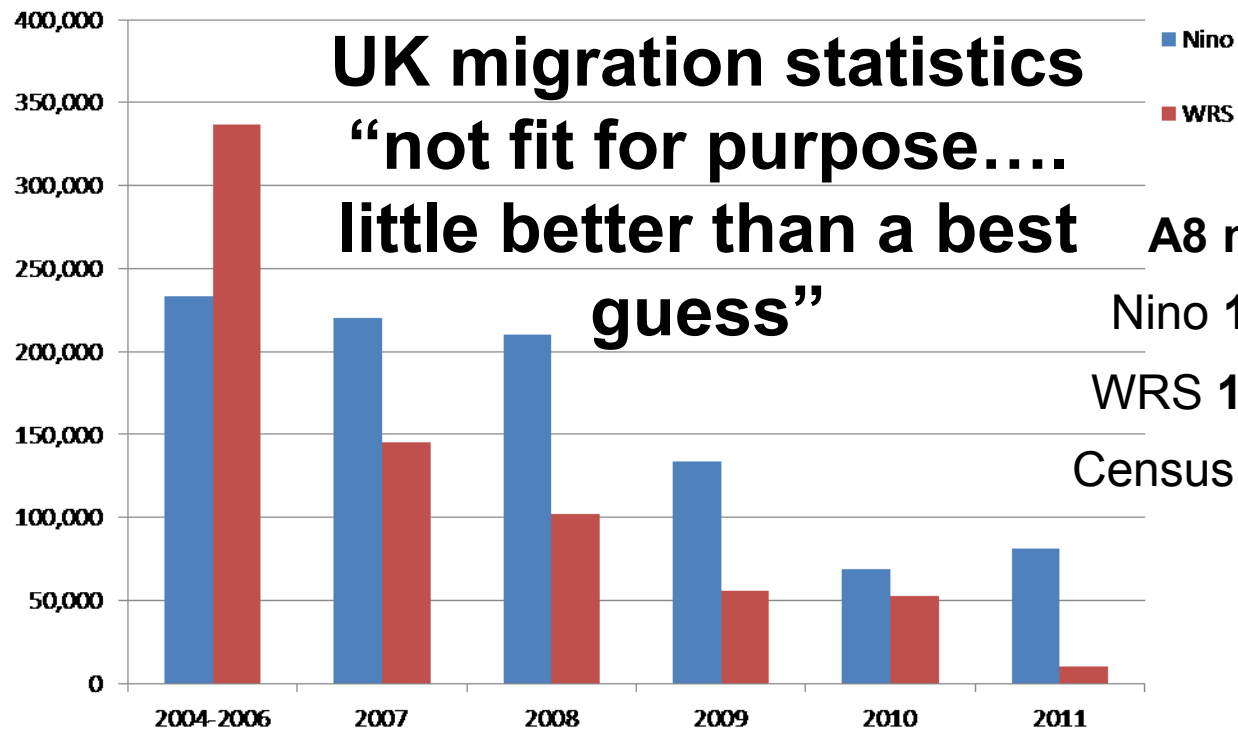
Faculty of Business and Law

Context

Long history of Polish and other migration to UK – CHOICE

The accession (A8) - the facts?

Polish migration



May 2004 – May 2011

Nino **950,570**

WRS **705,890**

Census **654,000**

A8 migration

Nino **1,708,030**

WRS **1,134,711**

Census **1,100,000**

A new type of migration?

The government policy response



A crisis of governance?

- Joint working and alliances
- National policy discord?



UNITED



THE TREATMENT OF POLISH AND OTHER AS ECONOMIC MIGRANTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES

A research programme prepared for
Dr. Janusz Kochanowski,
Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection of the Republic of Poland

Jo Curry-Hall
University of Hull
and
Constante of the Republic of Poland, Hull

Department for Work and Pensions
Working Paper No 29

The impact of free movement of workers from Central and Eastern Europe on the UK labour market

Nicola Gilpin, Matthew Hentley, Sara Lemos, Jonathan Portes and Chris Bullen

A report of research carried out on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions

Corporate Document Services

HOUSE OF LORDS
Select Committee on Economic Affairs
1st Report of Session 2007–08

The Economic Impact of Immigration

Volume I: Report

Ordered to be printed 18 March 2008 and published 1 April 2008

Published by the Authority of the House of Lords
London: The Stationery Office Limited
2008

HL Paper 82-I



Coalition and Labour policy now very much support this trajectory

Xenophobia

Project investigate moral panics and Polish migration:

- **Data 124 questionnaires and 46 semi-structured interviews in the north – today talk about questionnaire responses.**

Over half (63 of 124) of respondents had experienced some form of xenophobic incident. Of which 14 incidents were at work;

Where I live I was verbally abused
....newspapers articles...
Often it happens in poor districts of Manchester like Salford...
...you can feel it when listening TV programmes that cover migrant issues.
...neighbour called me Polish whore...
...my car was damaged and my home window was damaged...
Frequent attacks on our estates, broken fences, broken glass...
...said I should leave country because Englishman cannot get a job...
...statement about taking British jobs...

Integration

Integrated into British society?:

Yes, I am accepted and feel good in the community...

53 out of 124 felt integrated;

yes, good relations with people and neighbours.

Yes, I feel integrated into British society, because generally they are fantastic people....

yes, I do participate in local elections...

I guess I am

I have good relations...

generally yes, it's hard to integrate with indigenous population

Membership of UK organisations:

but it's even harder to integrate with your Polish migrant fellows

- 11 were trade union members

- 5 involved in other UK NGOs

I probably have more British friends than Poles.

(Church – volunteer at social services – free interpretation for organisations – drug addition).

yes, I live and work exclusively with the British



Integration

But only 39 felt integrated into their local Polish community;

9 worked with a Polish community organisation;

Interestingly there were 12 poor comments about fellow Poles;

...work in the factory for 12 hours - sort of Polish hell...

...in my town Poles do not want to integrate...

...I am not surprised about bad opinions that are circulating about Poles...

No, because Polish community is full of envy...

...do not speak English and have many pretensions.

...there is strong social distance among them [Poles] based on class and status...

Future research: Community formation

Our approach is to explore xenophobia further through a greater understanding of Polish community formation;

With so many new entrants we should expect to see diversity and indeed group formations around status and class;

Initially xenophobia seems to be less against those who are professional or middle class;

Overall we believe this formation around group 'identity' is a fruitful area of study.